

What is claimed is:

sub A>

1. A pivot joint comprising:
an inner member;
an elastomeric member disposed around said inner member, said inner member slidably engaging said elastomeric member;
an outer member disposed around said elastomeric member, said elastomeric member being fixedly secured to said outer member.
2. The pivot joint described in Claim 1 further comprising a low friction member disposed between said inner member and said elastomeric member.
3. The pivot joint described in Claim 1 wherein said inner member rotates within said elastomeric member around an axis.
4. The pivot joint described in Claim 3 further comprising an axial retention member disposed between said inner member and said elastomeric member.
5. The pivot joint described in Claim 4 wherein said axial retention member comprises a groove formed in one of said inner member and said elastomeric member and a rib formed on the other of said inner member and said elastomeric member, said rib being disposed within said groove.

202504161400T

6. The pivot joint described in Claim 4 wherein said axial retention member comprises a first contoured surface on said inner member which mates with a second contoured surface defined by said elastomeric member.

7. The pivot joint described in Claim 6 wherein said first and second contoured surfaces are generally spherical.

8. The pivot joint described in Claim 1 wherein said inner member rotates within said elastomeric member around a first axis and pivots within said elastomeric member around a second axis, said second axis being different than said first.

9. The pivot joint described in Claim 8 wherein said second axis is generally perpendicular to said first axis.

2025-11-14 14:04:00